

EPR/LEPC April 24, 2019 Meeting

Meeting Began: 09:10

Meeting Ended: 10:20

In Attendance:

Dan Durkee	Warren County Public Health
Daren Potter	Warren County Public Health
Brian LaFlure	Warren County Office of Emergency Services
Amy Drexel	Warren County Office of Emergency Services
Rocky Girard	Warren County Sheriff's Office
Roger Ellis, DVM	New York State Agriculture and Markets
Ann Marie Mason	Hudson Headwaters Health Network
Tammie Delorenzo	Assistant to the County Administrator
Mike Shaw	NYS Department of Health
Donald James	American Red Cross/RACES Radio/SkyWarn
Evan Seyboth	NYS Department of Transportation

Excused/Report Provided:

Laura Stebbins	Glens Falls Hospital
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Dan opened with introductions of the members present and new Public Health staff, Daren Potter. He discussed current guidance from NYS DOH on the current Measles outbreak provided on April 17, 2019 and measures that have been undertaken by local health departments. A copy of DOH guidance is attached.

Dan provided an update to the current season's influenza. Cases in the County are declining but the season remains open. Any healthcare providers that did not receive the annual immunization should continue to wear a mask.

Dan provided a report on behalf of Laura Stebbins.

NYSDOH Medical Countermeasures Exercise 4/11

- GFH responded to multiple calls and email messages to test contact information.
- GFH health centers requested to determine how they would support Warren and Washington County Public Health PODS (Points of Dispensing) to distribute Cipro and Doxy as requested.
- GFH Infection Prevention prepared to provide response to an Anthrax exposure.
- GFH Pharmacy prepared to provide medications if requested.

Person With Weapon Drills

- Continual drills with scenario of a person with a weapon at off campus sites and hospital departments. Local law enforcement agencies have participated and provided excellent observations, recommendations, and completed walk thru assessments of the facilities.

EXERCISES

Coalition Surge Test (CST) Exercise 4/10/19

- Glens Falls Hospital was one of three hospitals in the region designated to evacuate due to Anthrax threat. St. Peter's and St. Mary's in Amsterdam were the other 2 hospitals. The remaining 21 regional hospitals were requested to accept the patients being evacuated.
- The Hospital Command Center (HCC) was activated with excellent response from HICS (Hospital Incident Command System) team. In an actual incident, only the hospital Command and Section Chiefs and Emergency Response representatives (OES, EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, RACES) would be in the HCC, but for training purposes, all encouraged to participate.
- Bryan LaFlure notified Dispatch, EMS Coordinators, and activated the RACES amateur radio group. Micki Guy & Jack Timms, Warren County EMS Coordinators, provided the EMS transport capability to the HICS team in the HCC. Coordinators provided excellent recommendations regarding alternate transportation considerations with focus on evacuation of newborns from SCN (Special Care Nursery) and the Behavioral Health Unit. Beds were available at regional facilities, but transport of 160+ patients would be challenging and require extensive coordination among the hospitals, OES, EMS, Dispatch, etc.
- centers, provider offices, behavioral health sites, and rehabilitation service sites) participated in the exercise at their sites. In addition to RACES testing communication at the sites, each sites had specific response questions to complete regarding their role.
- The NYSDOH eFINDS system (electronic tracking of evacuated patients from hospitals and nursing homes) was very effectively tested to provide beds for all of the evacuated patients. Five area nursing homes would have provided 28 beds as component of the Hospital to Nursing Home Decompression process.
- Two RACES operators were in the HCC many others went to majority of the GFH off campus sites, HHHN sites and a nursing home to test radio communication capability from the HCC to the sites. This was an excellent example of partnership.
- The 24 GFH off campus sites (health
- Contact information was tested throughout the exercise among the NYSDOH Hospital Emergency Preparedness Coalition partners.

Tabletops

- 1/16 Hospital Evacuation
- 2/20 Surge of displaced children
- 3/20 Regional illness outbreak
- 4/17 Mass Fatality incident –explosion at local business site
- **5/15 Water contamination at a Nursing Home**
- **6/19 Chemical exposure in the community**
- **7/17 Severe summer storm – impact on mass gathering/tourist season**

- **8/21 Person with a weapon at healthcare facility**
- **9/18 Loss of hospital monitoring system**
- **10/16 Hostage situation at a Health Center**

Healthcare Coalition

- Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Work Group annual pediatric emergency preparedness seminar is **May 29, 2019 at the Albany School of Public Health**. Please try to attend this very informative program designed to provide excellent response to children in any type of disaster.
- Laura Stebbins provided presentation to the Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) regarding hospital response codes following significant research on this topic.. The discussion is Color Codes versus Plain Language notifications. A survey developed and provided to the hospitals to complete to identify the multiple different colors used, in an effort to promote all hospitals in the region and potentially in the state to use the same codes. Plain language promoted with emphasis on person with a weapon.
Will provide a presentation on the outcome of surveys at the next Warren County Emergency Preparedness meeting. Please forward any recommendations or comments to Laura Stebbins lstebbins@glensfallshosp.org

Education

- Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT) –Stop the Bleed - training for GFH staff in process. Scheduled to provide training at SUNY Adirondack. Presentations scheduled for two Education groups in May to promote schools having Combat Application Tourniquets (CAT) in schools. Thank you to Jack Timms for his continual training and support of this program. Stop the Bleed is a national program for response to a life threatening extremity injury that cannot be controlled with direct pressure or wound packing. Tourniquets may be needed with gunshot injuries, explosions, industrial/farm equipment injuries, transportation accidents, etc.
- Disaster Mental Health Team (County & GFH) annual training 3/8 -17 trained.

Dan reviewed the recent Public Health exercise that was held the day after the hospital's exercise. In keeping with the same scenario, it was simulated that a County Staging Site (CSS) had to be established in order to receive medical countermeasures from the NYS Medical Emergency Reserve Cache (MERC) in anticipation of setting up Point of Dispensing (POD) sites in the County for mass treatment. Public Health was assisted by the Department of Public Works and Buildings and Grounds and the exercise was completed successfully.

LEPC Update

- Tier II Reports are in
 - Sawdust only new hazardous material
 - No deleted hazardous materials
 - A few new sites

Warren County Office of Emergency Services - Agency Update

Plans

- CEMP plan was updated
- Started the Recovery Plan

Exercises

- HAZMAT functional exercise 5.2.19

Training

- ICS 400 coming in May 23 & 24, 2019
- Hosting the spring NWS SkyWarn in April 29, 2019.

Real Events

- Large ice jam – is gone
- Spring flooding is tapering off

By Amy Drexel
Emergency Services Coordinator

Tammie (Administrator) discussed recent meetings she attended with Ginelle Jones (Public Health) and Deanna Park (Office for Aging) with local Skilled Nursing Facilities to discuss elder care in the region. There will be a meeting of their coalition on 14 May.

Ann Marie (HHHN) discussed active shooter training for all Hudson Headwaters staff that will be completed by the end of the year. They have also begun de-escalation training with staff as a result of disorderly patients being confrontational.

Group discussion of current status of opioid crisis in the region. Rocky talked about marijuana that had been tainted with imported fentanyl and resulted in a large number of overdoses. Typical resuscitative measures sometimes prove ineffective due to lethality of mixture. Officers no longer field test due to risk of personal exposure – any large quantities seized are directed to a laboratory for analysis.

Dr. Ellis (NYSDAM) discussed anti-vaccination initiatives currently gaining ground in veterinary medicine as well. He also discussed African Swine Fever which is not harmful to humans only pigs. He is not aware of any large scale operations within the county of concern but is remaining vigilant in tracking the disease's movement.

Rocky (WCSSO) discussed upcoming Rabies and Tick training for the Sheriff's Office provided by Public Health. Americade is coming up soon, 03-08 June.

Brian (OES) nothing to report.

Mike (NYSDOH) nothing to report.

Donald (ARC/RACES) discussed the current Red Cross assets available at the Glens Falls office. Most of the office's resources have been centrally located in Albany and any requests for response to incidents will take 3-4 hours. They still have approximately 50 cots and 100 blankets in Glens Falls.

Evan (NYSDOT) provided emergency contact information for reporting closure of any State highway.